

# THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

*The Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians*  
(Section of the Library Association)

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Edited by F. SEYMOUR SMITH, A.L.A., Hornsey Public Libraries, N.8.

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## EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Next Meeting of the Association** will be held at the Middle Temple, E.C.4, on March 12th, and will commence with an afternoon tour of the Temple, Great Hall, Church, etc., under the guidance of Mr. H. A. C. Sturgess, Librarian and Keeper of the Records. Members wishing to participate in this tour, which promises to be one of outstanding interest, should assemble in Fountain Court, Middle Temple, at 3.15 p.m. The tour will last for about an hour-and-a-half. The General Meeting will take place in the Middle Temple Library at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. A. R. Hewitt, Assistant Librarian, will read a paper on "The Inns of Court," and the chair will be taken by Mr. Sturgess.

The Junior Section will meet at 7 p.m., when Miss O. J. Woods, Tottenham Public Libraries, will read a paper on "The Child and the Book."

**The Council** has agreed to the announcement of a competition open to all members of the A.A.L. Section. A prize of a book or of books to the value of half-guinea (titles to be chosen by the winner) will be given to the assistant sending in what is considered by the judges to be the best list of prac-

tical suggestions for the improvement of the *Library Assistant*. The judges will be the Chairman of the Press and Publications Committee, Mr. K. G. Hunt, B.A., and the Honorary Editor. Entrants should send in their suggestions, which should number not more than six, to Mr. Hunt, c/o Central Library, 395, High Road, Tottenham, London, N.17, not later than March 31st. Observations should be as brief as possible and should have regard to the limited financial resources of the Section.

**Some forthcoming numbers** will include a series of articles on publishing houses and their publications. The series will be critical in nature, and the writers will pay particular attention to the format of the books they mention and to their cataloguing in the publishers' lists. We also hope to publish short extracts from, and summaries of, articles published two or three decades ago in early issues of this journal.

**A Dance** will be held at Shearn's Restaurant, 231, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1, on Wednesday, March 19th, from 7-11 p.m. Tickets, price 4/-, including refreshments, are obtainable from Miss Phyllis Appleby, Public Library, Richmond, or Mr. R. D. Hilton Smith, Central Library, Hendon, N.W.4, or from various representatives in most of the London and Greater London Libraries. The dance held in November resulted in the sum of three pounds being handed to the general funds of the Association, and the promoters hope that this result will be equalled, if not surpassed, by the interest and enthusiasm of members for the forthcoming dance.

**Membership of the Library Association.**—Will all those who transfer from transitional members to full membership please notify the Hon. Secretary (or the Divisional Hon. Secretary) of the change so that the necessary registration can be done. It is most important that this notification should be sent.

**The Next Meeting of the Council** will be held at the **Islington Public Library**, on Wednesday, March 26th, at 5 p.m.

**The Honorary Editorship.**—As no nominations have been received for this office, the present Editor has consented to carry on until the end of the present official year, when it is hoped a successor will be found. His continuance in office is only made possible by the willingness of Mr. Snaith to relieve him of part of his present editorial duties. Books, catalogues,

bulletins, etc., for review, should be sent direct to Mr. Snaith, c/o Public Library, Bethnal Green, E.2.

**An Easter Vacation School** will be held at the British Institute of Florence by the School of Librarianship and the Library Association. Particulars, forms of application, etc., may be obtained from the Director of the School, University College, W.C.1.

**We take this opportunity** of drawing attention to the letter in this issue from one of the L.A. Examiners. The statements made therein are almost incredible. Not all of the deplorable mistakes mentioned in the letter can be put down to "examination funk"; ignorance and carelessness must be responsible for many of these ridiculous errors. "Librarianship is a learned profession"; if this is a truism, and we believe it is, then the profession is being badly treated by its entrants, and well may we look with accusing eyes at our friends and co-operators, the teachers in our elementary and secondary schools. They cannot teach taste in books and art, but if they do not ensure that candidates of matriculation standard are able to spell correctly then they are doing their job as badly as many librarians and assistants are doing theirs.

**"A gracious tribute** to the staff of the Birmingham Reference Library is contained in a letter to the editor of "The Birmingham Mail" from Mr. A. H. R. Ball, English prose editor to the Cambridge University Press. Mr. Ball writes:

In connection with a new book, I recently called at the Birmingham Reference Library to look up some points for notes which had eluded me. An assistant made a note of my requirements. A few days later, when I was in Manchester, I was surprised to receive from your City Librarian not only a detailed report on each of the questions I left, giving all the information I required, but also the offer of further facilities.

I may say that some of these questions were connected with obscure French mediaeval history, and had been searched for in vain by several experts at various universities and libraries. The reports I received from your City Librarian must have involved considerable and skilled research, and I can only show my gratitude by expressing my appreciation of the resources of your libraries, the high standard of scholarship among the staff, and the spirit of willing service to a stranger which, though not always found, indicates an understanding of the true function of a great library.

Mr. Ball, it appears, is engaged in the preparation of a new edition of Carlyle's "French Revolution," in which some of the passing references are extremely obscure. One of Mr. Ball's problems was the identity of a man to whom the sage referred as "Towhead." The character in question, a somewhat obscure individual, lived many centuries ago in the South of France, and the appellation could only be known to one steeped, as Carlyle was, in French history and lore."

**At this time of the year** all librarians and assistants who are not members of The Library Association must sometimes ask themselves if they should join or not. As to the answer there can be no doubt. Membership of the Association is now separated from the Register, and any person qualified under the bye-laws may join. Every library worker should resolve not only to join, but to take, sooner or later, an active share in the proceedings. The greater the number of members, the stronger and the more numerous will be the branches of the Association. The more numerous the branches the more frequent the opportunities of intercourse with fellow librarians. When we recall all that the Association has accomplished in legislation, in professional training, and in educating public opinion in favour of library development, we cannot understand why any person merely interested in libraries is not in membership, let alone people who are hoping for a livelihood in librarianship. There are still too many people outside all professional organisations who safely criticise at a distance. The simple truth is, that with all its limitations and faults, the Library Association is a much better association than many library workers deserve. The success of the Library Association does not depend on the Council, but on the members themselves. We trust that all Transitional Members will avail themselves of the opportunity at an early date of becoming full members of their Association.

**Students** are likely to be interested in the fact that the Hon. Librarian of the A.A.L. Section has available for issue, the special Printing Number of *The Times*. Application should be made in the usual way.

**Battersea Park** district has now been provided with a Branch Library of a size more commensurate with the work it has to perform than the building which has been serving the district in past years. The lighting is of the modern, shadowless type, and most of the fittings have been made by municipal workmen.

## LITHOGRAPHY, CHROMO-LITHOGRAPHY, AND OFFSET-LITHOGRAPHY.

By Miss C. R. DALLISON.  
(Birmingham Reference Library).

The history of the invention of Lithography leaves no chance for ingenious theory or speculation; it was definitely invented by Aloys Senefelder in 1796. In that year his first work—a piece of music, was printed from the stone, although it was not until 1798 that he made the all-important discovery that without etching the design in relief, he could prepare the stone so as to get a print from the surface. In 1800 he patented his invention in Bavaria, most of the German States, and Austria. He afterwards opened establishments in London and Paris, but these were mainly unsuccessful.

The Lithograph has the advantage of being absolutely autographic. By every other method of duplication known, the design must be entirely changed before it can yield a print. On steel, the lines must be engraved; on copper, bitten in; on wood, left in relief; but a lithograph is the drawing itself, unchanged, actually as the artist made it, simply multiplied by the printing press.

The quarries of Solenhofen in Bavaria yield the best stones; others of inferior quality are obtained from France and Italy. Lithographic inks are thick and greasy, and are composed of lard, soap, wax, shellac, Venetian turpentine, carbonate of soda, and colouring material such as Paris black, &c.

The repelling of the colour from all those places which are to remain blank, is the basis of the art. Lithography depends on the affinity of one greasy body for another, and their antipathy to water.

The design to be printed is put on a prepared stone. It may be drawn on the stone, or drawn on paper and transferred, or it may be a photograph printed on transfer paper and then transferred. If drawn directly on the stone, it must be in reverse. The stone is now washed with gum arabic, to fill up the pores where there is no design, and so prevent the ink from spreading. If water be put on the surface of the stone, it will be absorbed by those parts not covered with ink; a roller charged with the same greasy ink may then be passed over the stone, and the ink will adhere to the inky design, whilst the moist parts will repel the ink and remain clean. A piece of paper put on the stone will, if pressure be applied, receive an impression of the design.

It is well to note that the lithograph is not the drawing on stone or on paper, but the print which is obtained from the surface of the stone.

In chromo-lithography, a key is made shewing the outline of the picture, and is transferred to stone. From it, pulls are taken on transfer paper—one for each colour to be used. Each of the transfers is coloured with one colour only, and then transferred to stone. In printing, the paper passes from stone to stone. Often as many as ten stones are used, therefore accurate registration is absolutely imperative.

The importance of the introduction of aluminium and zinc into lithography, cannot be over-estimated; these metals being used to replace the stone. The sheets can be bent round a cylinder and used in a rotary press. As a consequence of this we have the "offset" process, in which the zinc-covered cylinder revolves in contact with a rubber-covered cylinder, to which the design is transferred at each revolution. Pressing against this cylinder is a second rubber-covered cylinder, and the paper is fed between these two, receiving the design from the rubber surface. This method has three decided advantages:

- i. The pliability of metal, and the use of the rotary press.
- ii. The high speed at which the work can be turned out, and
- iii. The ease with which the metal sheets can be handled and stored.

Books Illustrated by these processes:

Morris, F. O. *British Moths*. 1859 [Hand coloured lithographs.]

Roberts. *Holy Land*. [Lithographs of one or more tints: hand coloured.]

Gould. *Birds of Europe*. [Ditto, ditto].

### **Chromo-Lithographs.**

Jones, Owen: *Plans, &c., of the Alhambra*.

This book is very weighty and the plates are too large (28 x 16 in.), and is largely of an architectural, and not at all of a pictorial nature. It is not surprising to learn that it was a financial failure. In fact, Owen Jones had to sell some land his father left him, in order to pay the cost of production. Six or seven tints were used for each plate.

Humphreys, H. N. *Illuminated Books of the Middle Ages.* 1844.

This is not only the best book of Humphreys' career, but the finest of all the "Illustrated books." It is a large folio, containing an account of the development and progress of the art of illumination, as a distinct branch of pictorial ornamentation.

The illustrations are a series of examples of the size of the originals, selected from the most beautiful manuscripts of the various periods from the 14th to the 17th century. They came out in monthly parts, each part containing 3 plates and ornamental borders.

Humphreys, H. N. *Sentiments and Similes of William Shakespeare.* 1851.

Contains selections from Shakespeare printed in gold, without colours. Humphreys says in the preface: "I have adopted the style of decorative art which prevailed in the Shakespearean age. The whole labour of the decorator has, after the manner of the later and more eminent illuminators, been directed to the first page, instead of being spread over the whole volume." Ornamentation includes a portrait of Shakespeare, the masks of comedy and tragedy, and a scene from "Macbeth."

Jones, O. *Grammar of Ornament.* 1856.

This, the principal volume of his career, was printed by Day & Son. It contains 100 folio plates drawn on stone by F. Bedford. It is a standard work, but it has been said of it: "It is too expensive for the artist, too luxurious for the manufacturer, and too technical for the amateur."

Digby Wyatt. *The Industrial Arts of the 19th Century at the Great Exhibition.*

Published by Day & Son. Came out in parts between 1851 and 1853. Contains 160 plates. The book tells us that 1300 copies were printed, which meant about one and a quarter million pulls. That after every pull, the stone had to be cleaned and the paper re-adjusted to secure register. That altogether 1,069 stones were needed, weighing 25 tons, and that the weight of the paper was 17,400 lbs. With 1,069 stones the place must have looked like a dismantled cemetery. No wonder that chromo-lithography, as then practised, waned. From this it is easy to see the advantage of zinc sheets.

Audsley, W. G. *Polychromatic Decoration.* 1882.

Warner. MSS. in British Museum. [Chromo-lithographs on a photo-lithograph basis.]

Audsley, W. G. Chromo-Lithography. Shewing the process in detail, using 22 stones.

### **ETCHING, AQUATINT, MEZZOTINT.**

By Miss E. M. BRADSHAW.  
(Birmingham Reference Library).

Etching is a process of engraving in which the design is etched or eaten by acid into the plate. It was first practised about 1500. Great care must be taken in choosing the copper plate. The surface may be covered with minute lines almost invisible to the naked eye, which will give a mottled appearance to the print—such a plate is said to be spongy. Again, the copper may be soft, either wholly or in patches, which will result in uneven biting, as the rate at which the acid bites depends upon the density of the metal. The only remedy is to have the plates hammered by hand, not produced by modern machinery.

Remove all grease from the plate as this will prevent the ground from adhering. The etching ground should be impervious to acid and should cling to the copper sufficiently to prevent the acid finding its way between them. It should be neither too soft nor too hard, so as to give full play to the artist's hand without clinging to the needle or chipping off—which leads to ragged lines and foul biting.

To this end, soft and hard substances such as wax and asphaltum should be judiciously combined. A light or dark ground may be used according to whether hydrochloric mordant (which darkens the bitten lines) or nitric acid is used.

The ground may be laid with a roller, by heating the plate sufficiently to melt the ground, or in solution with chloroform, in which case the chloroform soon evaporates, leaving behind the ground.

The needle should be sharpened so that its section is perfectly round, to enable it to be driven point first over any part of the plate without obstruction.

The etched line being hollow leaves a ridge of ink upon the paper, which the printer in drying should be careful to preserve.

Passages to be heavily bitten must be kept open owing to the action of the mordant in widening as well as deepening the lines, which, should they run together, will print a blot.



When the needlework is completed and the back and edges of the plate are protected with varnish, it is placed in a bath of mordant and all the lines bitten to the depth required for the palest passages. These passages are then stopped out and the plate proceeds by successive stages of biting and stopping out until the darkest passages have attained their full strength.

Another method is working upon the plate in the mordant, the darkest passages being needled first. This requires great skill and accuracy. The plate must then be cleaned from the ground and stopping out varnish, and its edges smoothed and bevelled, when it is ready for the printer.

The art of etching attained its greatest perfection in Holland during the 17th century, under the inspiration of the "Prince of Etchers"—Rembrandt. It was practised in France during the same period by Claude Lorraine and others. After falling into neglect during the 18th century, it was revived under such artists as J. F. Millet and Charles Méryon.

In England so great was the prejudice against etching, that in 1850 there was no periodical that would admit work of this kind. The popularisation of the art in this country was due to the efforts of J. M. Whistler and Sir Francis Seymour Haden in the 'fifties and 'sixties, and later to Sir Frank Short.

Best known amongst modern etchers are Sir David Cameron, Mr. Muirhead Bone, Mr. James McBey, Mr. F. L. Griggs. Other modern men worthy of mention are the late Wm. Strang, Francis Dodd and Augustus John; and in France, M. Forain and many others.

Pennant's "Account of London," published in 1795, is interesting by reason of its soft ground etchings, which are printed in red and black—an example of an unusual colour process.

Atkinson's "Picturesque Representation of Manners, Customs and Amusements of the Russians," in 3 vols., 1803-4, has soft ground etchings, coloured by hand.

From 1790—1830, the principal method of book illustration was aquatint engraving. This is a process of etching through a porous ground of some resinous substance.

When examined closely, an aquatint ground will reveal a multitude of tiny rings, broken and irregular, but joined together. The most common method of laying the ground is to place some finely powdered resin in a box with a circle fan, which, when set in motion, causes the dust to rise and, when

the copper plate is inserted, to settle on its surface. The plate must then be taken out and heated to the melting point of the resin, when the "ground" will be found to adhere and form a partial protection to the plate.

The design is etched and the finished aquatint produced by successive bitings, any portion not to receive a tone being stopped out with Brunswick Black. The mordant bites into the interstices between the minute particles, thus producing a granulated surface.

An aquatint is made up of broad masses of tone, the contours of which can be made almost invisible, in skilful hands, during the biting. It is well adapted for reproducing sepia or water colour drawings, worked in simple washes.

In printing a coloured aquatint, it is found that the ground, being fine and open, does not hold the colour, giving a thin and weak effect, which makes hand colouring essential as a finish. The process of superimposing seven or eight aquatint plates, each inked with a separate colour has not been adopted for book illustration, probably owing to the amount of work involved and expense.

The art was invented (or at least perfected) by Jean Baptiste Le Prince, c.1768, who sold his secret to the Hon. Charles Greville, who in turn passed it on to Paul Sandby. He recognised its possibilities and in 1775 published a set of quarto plates, "Twelve Views in Aquatinta, from Drawings taken on the spot in South Wales."

From this time it had an increasing popularity until in the works of Malton, W. Daniell, and the Havells it reaches its highest perfection in this country.

Aquatint engraving has been brought to a technical perfection which has never been surpassed in the works of F. Janinet, P. L. Debucourt and other French artists of the end of the 18th century.

Greatest of all aquatinters is Francisco Goya, whose aquatints have spirit and originality, rarely found among prints of this nature.

Ackermann's importance as a publisher is that he was the first to gain popularity for coloured illustrations in books. At the famous "Repository of Arts," he kept a staff of workmen specially employed in colouring aquatints. For example, "The Microcosm of London," issued in final form in 1810, contained 104 plates. 1000 copies were published, which meant that 104,000 plates had to be coloured by hand.

The sumptuous series of books issued from the "Repository of Arts" has scarcely been surpassed in the history of book illustration. Amongst the most famous are: "History of the University of Oxford," and "History of the University of Cambridge," published in 1813 and '14—1000 copies of each; followed by "A History of the Colleges," 1816, in 1000 copies. This equals if not surpasses the "Oxford" and "Cambridge."

In 1820 Ackermann began to issue a travel and scenery series of "Picturesque Tours . . ." which, however, are not to be compared with the Oxford trilogy.

From 1809-28 two monthly periodicals "The Repository of Arts, Literature, Commerce," [etc.] and the "Poetical Magazine," were attempts to cut out the "Gentleman's Magazine" and the "European Magazine," which were issued with only occasional illustrations. The success of these is shown by the subsequent re-issue of the more important contents in separate volumes—such as "Letters from Italy," by Lewis Engelbach, with eighteen plates by Rowlandson; "Select Views of London," with seventy-six plates, and many others.

The "Poetical Magazine" is noteworthy for the "Tour of Dr. Syntax," with its famous illustrations by Rowlandson.

In 1822 Ackermann published "Illustrations of Japan," one of the first books dealing with things Japanese.

Foremost among his contemporaries were John and Josiah Boydell, whose most important book was "History of the River Thames," 1794, with seventy-six coloured aquatints and text by Combe. Another book published by them in the same year was Repton's "Sketches and Hints of Landscape Gardening."

About the beginning of the 19th century arose a demand for travel books. Of these, W. Orme and Thos. and Wm. Daniell were principal promoters of interest in India.

R. Ayton's "Voyage Round Great Britain," 1814-25, in 8 vols., has 308 plates drawn and engraved by W. Daniell. This is acclaimed the "classic of aquatint engraving as applied to English scenery."

Another important book of this period is Pyne's "History of the Royal Residences," containing 100 coloured aquatint views. There are many others illustrating costume, fashions, martial achievements, field sports, foreign travel and caricature. Of uncoloured aquatint, it is said of Smyth's "Memoirs of

Sicily" that it contains the "most exquisite specimens to be found in any book."

Mezzotint, or Mezzo Tinto as it was originally called, is an intaglio process for prints, by its nature most adapted to portraits, where its richness of tone is unequalled.

The copper plate is first roughened all over. It is generally done by means of the "rocker"—a small spade-shaped instrument fringed with sharp teeth, which dig into the copper and raise a burr.

The rocker is usually attached to a long pole, in horizontal position to the plate. This gives greater freedom and command over the work.

If printed from in this state the result would be velvety blackness. The design must be transferred to the plate, and the burr scraped down for the high lights, in more or less degree as required.

The plate must be warmed, the ink rubbed well into every line or roughness, and partly removed by a rag or the hand, then it is ready for printing. Thick, soft paper should be used. It must first be damped, and after the first impression, have removed every trace of ink from the plate.

The copper plate soon wears out. It will be found that after the first thirty prints, only 100 more will be good enough for ordinary purposes.

The practice of steeling the plate over is sometimes adopted; but this reduces the value of the prints, as it brings into existence, many hundreds of copies of almost identical prints.

The early mezzotinters were mostly Dutchmen. Abraham Blooteling, a great Dutch artist, came to England in 1673, and did much fine work, after Van Dyck, Kneller and Lely. The art attained its greatest perfection in this country. The latter half of the 18th century saw the Golden Age of Mezzotint and Stipple engraving in the great school which arose in the train of those masters of English portraiture, Gainsborough, Romney, Reynolds, Hoppner.

To such eminent engravers as J. R. Smith, Rich. Earlom, Valentine Green and others do we owe fascinating miniature portraits of Mrs. Robinson, the Duchess of Devonshire, the Linleys, and many others.

Coloured mezzotints were sparingly employed in books owing to their cost. There are a few notable instances of its

use: Dr. R. J. Thornton's "Temple of Flora," 1807, with engravings by Ward, Earlom and others; "A Series of Portraits of the Emperors of Turkey," engraved by John Young, 1815; and "Ceremonial of the Coronation of King George the Fourth," 1823.

Rich. Earlom engraved the "Liber Veritatis" of Claude Lorraine—small prints partly etched, partly mezzotinted, which later gave rise to the "Liber Studiorum" of J. M. W. Turner, 1812-9; a celebrated series of seventy mezzotints by Charles Turner, F. C. Lewis and others.

Sir Frank Short has engraved some plates after sketches by J. M. W. Turner, in continuation of the "Liber Studiorum."

T. G. Lupton mezzotinted the plates of "Views of the Ports of England," afterwards called "The Harbours of England," "River Scenery of England," some plates of the "Liber Studiorum"; and mezzotinted some of Ruskin's and T. S. Boys's etchings in "Stones of Venice."

David Lucas published as a series in 1855 some small engravings after Constable, "English Landscape Scenery."

Many highly skilled modern mezzotint engravers are following particular artists: Sir Frank Short, G. F. Watts; C. W. Campbell, Sir E. Burne-Jones; J. D. Miller, Lord Leighton; and G. P. Robinson, Sir Frank Dicksee.

## OUR LIBRARY

*The Librarians' Guide, 1929-1930. Edited by Geoffrey R. Axon, A.L.A. (Cloth, pp. 178; 8×5½; The Literary Year Books Press, Ltd., 67, Dale Street, Liverpool.)*

The sixth issue of this Annual has been considerably enlarged and improved. No fewer than 400 new libraries have been added to the main section, and the sections relating to the U.S.A., and the Overseas Dominions, have been considerably strengthened. The information given is very full, fuller, we believe, than in any other publication of its kind. Its general use might do something to lessen the number of questionnaires which continue to arrive at inconvenient times. The value of a book like this, which might well be truly termed indispensable, lies in its comprehensiveness and its accuracy. Of the former quality there is no doubt; of the latter we are not so sure. Constant use will show, and absolute accuracy is almost impossible. Still, we are bound to mention that we refuse to believe that the population of East Ham is only

14,800; that the address of the Bethnal Green Library is London Street, E.2; that the Borough Librarian of Hornsey was appointed in 1924, etc. These are small errors, but their presence tends to destroy the users' confidence. The volume has undoubtedly increased its value to the profession by being edited by a Librarian. No price is mentioned on our review slip but we fancy it is half-a-guinea. It cannot be termed dear at this price, and it deserves good support.

*Sayers, W. C. Berwick. An Introduction to Library Classification: theoretical, historical and practical. 3rd edition, re-written. (Cr. 8vo.; pp. 296; 10/6 net.) Grafton and Co.*

In its revised form Mr. Sayers *Introduction* will continue to be the best short book on the subject for English students, as his larger *Manual* is the best comprehensive text-book. Old hands at classification will find a reading of this revision a pleasant "refresher" course, and beginners will have difficulty in finding a better book to guide them through the L.A. syllabus in section three.

*County Libraries in Great Britain and Ireland: Reports, 1928-9. (Published by the Library Association: County Libraries' Section.)*

The County Libraries' Section is to be congratulated on the first report for which it has been wholly responsible. The statistics and conclusions drawn from the Editorial Committee's investigations will prove invaluable to County Librarians and to Directors of Education. The report emphasises the slow progress which is being made. Only ten County Libraries employ a Deputy Librarian, 37 are without trained assistants, and 16 are still without any assistants at all. In other words, the County Librarian is still a pioneer, and the County Library is travelling along the stony way that Municipal libraries have travelled from 1850 to 1930. Many of the latter sat down on the way and began to die about 1898; let us hope that the County Library Report for 1950 will still record general progress. The West Riding Headquarters seems almost a model of its kind, and we imagine many County librarians would willingly pay the fares of their Directors of Education to see it if they thought it might arouse the right kind of envy in the minds of these powerful gentlemen. Again, the book wagon belonging to that most enterprising of Counties, Kent, should certainly show backward Counties what can be done if councillors would only bring to civic affairs a little of the vision, imagination and business enterprise which they often bring to their private

affairs. For it is a strange thing that the business man and the successful shopkeeper invariably bring to their Committee business, not the keen and virile attention of the man of affairs but the apathetic and often stupid prejudices of a suburban Philistine.

The Report is not being distributed so freely as usual, but assistants may borrow it from the A.A.L. Library.

### SHORT NOTICES

*The Library Review: Spring Number, 1930. (2/- per copy; Annual Subscription 8/-: Editorial Offices, Coatbridge, Scotland.)*

Spring being the appropriate season for growth and change, this number of the *Library Review* emerges forth with a slight change of format. The contents are as good as ever, which is high praise. The happy mixture of literary and professional journalism which is characteristic of this periodical may be indicated by naming a few of the contributors: William McFee, Arnold Zweig, F. V. Morley, J. M. Bulloch, and W. J. Hamilton. We wonder if there are any who can identify the librarian so affectionately recalled by McFee from the memories of his North London boyhood, when he had the run of a number of libraries doing their best to satisfy their public on the penny rate! The anonymous writer of the *Books and Bookmen* columns continues to lay about him with a critical sword so keen and skilful as to make him a serious rival to Miss Lyn Irvine of the *Nation and Athenæum*.

*Newport Public Libraries: Class List of Books on the Fine Arts (pp. 71; paper covers.)*

The cataloguing and book selection are good, very good, compared with many a collection large enough to be called "special." Roger Fry is represented only by his monograph on Cézanne; this is too bad, so bad in fact that we trust the two best books on art published since the war are in the Newport Library, but that the slips for *Vision and Design* and *Transformations* were lost by the Printer!

*Golden Journeys, by George Pratt Insh. (7½ × 10½; paper covers; pp. 19; The Library Review, Coatbridge, Scotland.)*

Everybody who missed reading these two delightful essays in the *Library Review* should repair the omission now. Dr. Pratt tells of his adventures among out-of-the-way libraries in search of special materials, of the help he received, and of his successful attempts to introduce to students such books as the D.N.B., etc. These pages were well worth reprinting.

*Chesterfield Public Libraries.—The Bookshelf: a quarterly list of additions. Vol. 1, No. 1.*

This Bulletin deserves a welcome for its bright cover and the refreshing absence of advertisements. The Chesterfield library is being well looked after in the matter of book-selection, for the range of books listed is wide and the quality good.

*Association des Bibliothécaires français. Règles générales proposées pour la rédaction des catalogues, en vue de leur unification. (Paper covers, pp. 32. Paris: H. Champion; no price indicated).*

This useful pamphlet will undoubtedly be of great use to French librarians in their immense task of bringing their libraries into line with the ideals of modern librarianship. France obviously is in need of a library benefactor on a grand scale, for not only are municipal libraries comparatively rare, but such public libraries as there are seem to have been badly and sadly neglected since the war. Librarians are struggling along, it would appear, under a deadlier weight than even English librarians did before 1919. In this case it is obviously very wise of the A.B.F. to "get there first" with plans and technical apparatus for unification. If the public library movement grows in France as it has in Czecho-Slovakia, for instance, all French librarians will be deeply in the debt of their learned colleagues who have tackled the problem of rules for union cataloguing in such a commendable fashion. The French love of brevity is nowhere more emphasised than in the publication before us. The ground is well covered, and the rulings sensible and brief. We admire the forcible brevity of the following (relating to entries in the *Registre d'entrée*: "*Les grattage y sont interdits.*") We suggest an interesting hour or so might be passed by somebody with a knowledge of French in compiling a short dictionary list of technical words and phrases with their English equivalents. *Une fiche de renvoi* is easily identifiable at sight, but there are some others which require a dictionary and much puzzling over.

*Libraries: February, 1930. (Published at 216, West Monroe Street, Chicago, 35 cents).*

Amongst other interesting items, this month's issue contains an extract from a letter from an ex-library assistant who joined a well-known American library as an ordinary borrower. The implications of the quotation are so extraordinary that we take the liberty of quoting:—

"During this Christmas vacation, I have had time to read for the first time since coming here. I rushed eagerly to the public library, delighted at having the opportunity to use one of the world's famous libraries. The opportunity faded out!



As a non-resident I am not permitted to borrow new books. That did not disturb me because there are thousands of old books I want to read, but I was surprised to find that the library circulates very few classics. I was not even permitted to borrow any of Thackeray's books, although I could have taken Gene Stratton Porter's! The only benefit I received was the pleasure it gave me to look at the library and its arrangements."

The world broadcast of the King's Speech at the opening of the Naval Conference has had an unexpected interpretation: at last the millions of English-speaking listeners-in learnt what is meant by "the King's English." We hope the transmittance was good, for such are the strange tricks of reproduction, even the best speakers sometimes sound oddly Cockney.

*Bulletin of Bibliography: September-December, 1929. Edited by Fredk. W. Faxon. (83, Francis Street, Boston. \$3.00 per ann.)*

The most interesting items in this number are a bibliography of the writings of Bertrand Russell, and a list of one-act plays, 1925-9. Miss Gertrude Jacob, who is responsible for the Russell bibliography, states in her introductory note that Mr. Russell "has travelled quite extensively," and she finds "him a man of wide interests, able to present his material on the whole in quite a straightforward, understandable manner"! The only thing to say after reading this is to use Miss Jacob's favourite word—Quite! Mr. Russell will be quite pleased, we feel sure. The bibliography promises to be very full, and includes magazine articles.

## ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS SECTION.

### THE DIVISIONS.

#### MIDLAND DIVISION.

The Christmas Party at the Shakespeare Rooms, Edmund Street, Birmingham, on January 1st, 1930, attracted a record attendance of ninety-five members and friends.

Between dancing, games and supper were interspersed the production by Miss Paterson and Miss Foster, of the one-act play, "Square Pegs," by Clifford Bax, and Mr. T. C. Kemp's Famous Literary Waxworks.

The excellent fooling of Mr. Kemp, as showman, and his merry figures, and the skilful acting of the Misses Paterson and Foster, were very highly appreciated.

The party was so numerous and hungry that the Socials Organiser and Hon. Treasurer were sent to scout for such food shops as remained open. They returned well laden and so all was well. Everyone enjoyed themselves to the full, even to the last bun.

The fourth meeting of the session was held at Birmingham on Wednesday, January 22nd, 1930.

During the afternoon an instructive and enjoyable visit was paid to the new premises of the "Birmingham Gazette" (by kind permission of the Managing Editor, T. T. Stanley, Esq.).

The evening meeting at the Reference Library took the form of a debate, the motion being "That in the opinion of this meeting a Lending Library is of greater service than a Reference Library in promoting the cultural life of the community."

The affirmative was taken by Mr. G. L. Burton and Miss J. Paterson, and the negative by Mr. J. Davies and Miss A. Goodwin.

The arguments put forward by each side were very strong, and no one seemed to be prepared to forego the claim of the department of library service in which they were engaged. Some wavering was evident but vanished when the vote was taken, the "ayes" having it by a narrow majority.

M. J. R.

## YORKSHIRE DIVISION.

### ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1929.

With the close of the 23rd year the officers and committee have pleasure in submitting for your approval the Annual Report.

**MEMBERSHIP.**—The annual report of last year recorded the largest increase in membership since the formation of the Division. This year those figures have been exceeded. Commencing the year with a membership of 159, 54 names have been added to the register and 10 resignations accepted, leaving the total standing at the record number of 203. The officers and committee desire to thank all members who have assisted in the work of securing this representative total, and are looking forward to their continued co-operation during the ensuing year.

**MEETINGS.**—Unfortunately the committee have been prevented from carrying out their full programme during the year. Only three meetings have been held, but each meeting has been marked with enthusiasm and success.

The meetings have been held as follows: on 30th January the Annual Meeting was held at Sheffield. Between 60 and 70 members assembled at the Central Library, where motor buses were waiting to convey the party to the Park and Attercliffe Branch Libraries. A Civic welcome was accorded by the Lord Mayor (who very kindly provided tea), after which the Annual Business Meeting was held. During the evening Mr. R. J. Gordon, City Librarian, Leeds, addressed the members on the subject of "Amalgamation."

The Inaugural Meeting took place at the West Riding County Library Headquarters, Wakefield, on 20th March. An inspection of the County Hall occupied the afternoon. After tea the President of the Division (Miss E. F. Wragg) delivered the Presidential Address entitled "Listeners."

The next and last meeting of the year was held at Chesterfield on 5th June. During the afternoon members visited Welbeck Abbey, by kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire. Returning to Chesterfield a civic welcome was extended by the Mayor, after which a discussion on "Developing a Public Library Service" was opened by Mr. R. J. Gordon. The address evoked much discussion, in which many members took part.

**FINANCE.**—As submitted by your Honorary Treasurer (Mr. W. Proctor), the income of the year was £59 13s. 4d., and the expenditure £43 7s. 11d., leaving a balance in hand of £16 5s. 5d. This satisfactory balance bears its testimony to the faithful discharge of duties by your very worthy Honorary Treasurer.

**ANNUAL MEETING.**—The Annual Meeting of the A.A.L. was held on 5th June at Bristol. The Yorkshire Division was represented by Mr. A. V. Steward and your Honorary Secretary. Their report will not be read before the Division as it appeared in detail in the July number of the "Library World."

**CORRESPONDENCE CLASSES.**—Several members of the Division preparing for the Library Association Examinations have taken advantage of the courses arranged by the A.A.L. Tutors in sections II. and III. are members of the Yorkshire Division.

**BENEVOLENT FUND.**—This fund has generously maintained a grant to one of our Divisional members throughout the whole year. Unfortunately the circumstances of this member are not improved, but the grant is being continued. Application on behalf of another member is at present under consideration.

In conclusion, the officers and committee desire to tender their sincere thanks and appreciation to the librarians and civic authorities who, during the year have contributed towards the success of the Division by their help and co-operation. May we also record our thanks to all members who, by their regular attendance and keen support have turned out work to a definite and useful purpose.

G. P. JACKSON (Leeds),  
Honorary Secretary.

#### ANNUAL MEETING, 1930.

By kind invitation of the Libraries Committee the Annual Meeting was held in Leeds on Wednesday, 29th January.

At 3 p.m., some 70 members from all parts of the county assembled at the Central Lending Library and spent a profitable half-hour viewing the recently re-organised department.

The afternoon session was occupied by a visit to the Printing Department of the Leeds Technical College. The Principal, Mr. J. H. Everett, B.Sc., by whose permission the visit was arranged, acted as guide. Members were afforded an excellent opportunity of viewing all the various processes of illustration, including the relief, planographic and intaglio processes, also the colour methods. Particularly to students of Section II. was this visit of special value.

Tea was provided by the Lord Mayor (Councillor N. G. Morrison) in his rooms at the Town Hall. The Lord Mayor spoke a few words of welcome to the party, to which Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds) replied. Mr. Marr, of Sheffield, seconded this vote of thanks. To Mr. R. J. Gordon, City Librarian, Leeds, the thanks of the members were voiced by Miss E. F. Wragg and Mr. S. A. Firth.

The Annual Business Meeting opened with the President's remarks, such remarks embracing the activities of the Division during the year. Next came the Hon. Treasurer's Annual Report, followed by the Hon. Secretary's Annual Report. The election of officers, and the result of the Committee ballot were then announced as follows:—

President, Miss E. F. Wragg (West Riding County Library); Vice-Presidents, Mr. F. Haigh (Halifax), Mr. H. W. Marr (Sheffield), Mr. R.

W. Parsons (Bradford), Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds); Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. Proctor (Leeds); Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. P. Jackson (Leeds); Committee: Miss M. Heap (Keighley), Miss M. Hummerston (Leeds), Miss M. V. Walker (Huddersfield), Mr. H. Bateson (Leeds), Mr. F. Broadhurst (Sheffield), Mr. S. A. Firth (Sheffield), Mr. J. Gillett (Leeds), Mr. T. J. Kirkpatrick (Bradford), Mr. G. R. Micklewright (Chesterfield), Mr. E. Robertshaw (Bradford), Mr. F. T. Sleight (Leeds), Mr. A. Thompson (York).

The remainder of the evening was of the social order. A Whist Drive was held, there was dancing, vocal items were given by Mr. F. G. B. Hutchings (Leeds), Miss Miller (Huddersfield), gave violin solos, and Miss E. M. Willey (Bradford) recited. From the viewpoint of numbers, instruction, and entertainment, the meeting was very successful.

G. P. JACKSON (Leeds),  
Honorary Secretary.

### **SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.**

#### **MEETING AT HOVE.**

Assistants from Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Hove and Worthing met at Hove Public Library, on Wednesday evening, January 29th for the quarterly meeting of the South-Eastern Division. Mr. J. W. Lister, Chief Librarian, Hove, was in the Chair. An extremely interesting paper was read by Mr. Ernest Male, F.L.A., Sub-Librarian, Brighton Public Library, on "Brighton and Hove in Fiction." The subject covered was a wide one, and Mr. Male, commencing with the novels dealing with the Regency period, traced the history of Brighton as revealed in the pages of fiction, and delighted his audience with a wealth of local as well as literary information.

Miss Edith Talmey, Sub-Librarian, Hove, also read a paper on "Brighton and Hove in Literature, excluding fiction." This paper was confined chiefly to the poets and essayists who have found inspiration in the Brighton locality.

A vote of thanks to the writers of the papers was proposed by Miss E. Gerard, Sub-Librarian, Worthing Public Library.

### **SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.**

On the 29th January a meeting was held at Bournemouth. An attractive programme and brilliant sunshine was arranged.

A walk over the cliffs, a visit to the Russell-Cotes Museum, the new Pavilion, where a special performance on the organ was rendered, where also tea was served, and a local speaker told of "Some Literary Lions." Little time for business.

The meeting abandoned the idea of a visit to the Isle of Wight.

### **EASTERN COUNTIES DIVISION.**

The first meeting of the year was held at Ipswich on Thursday, January 30th. when representatives from Ipswich, Lowestoft, Norwich and Yarmouth were present.

The afternoon was spent in visiting the extensive engineering works of Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Ltd., manufacturers of lawn mowers and other agricultural implements, etc. By kind invitation of the Ipswich staff, tea was provided for the party at Messrs. Limmer and Pipe's Cafe, Buttermarket.

After tea members returned to the Central Library, and assembled for the meeting in the Lecture Hall. There they were received by W. Rowley Elliston, Esq., T.D., B.A., LL.B., Chairman of the Ipswich Libraries Committee, and Mr. L. R. McColvin, F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Ipswich. Following the business meeting, Miss S. T. P. Jacka, B.A., of the Ipswich Staff, read a very stimulating and comprehensive paper on "Tendencies in Modern Fiction." A brief discussion followed, after which the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Ipswich staff for their hospitality, and to Miss Jacka for her paper, proposed by Miss Alexander (Norwich), and seconded by Miss Wood (Lowestoft).

### NORTH-EAST DIVISION.

A large and representative gathering of members assembled for the meeting of the Division held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on February 5th, under the Chairmanship of Mr. I. Briggs.

The principal item on the programme was a paper by Mr. C. J. Zanetti, Newcastle, entitled "Mrs. Gaskell comes North." The first part of the paper dealt with Mrs. Gaskell's visit to Newcastle in the Autumn of the year 1829, and the second part with the connection between "Cranford" and Newcastle. In his remarks the Chairman said that it was not a paper which invited criticism, but one which directed one's thoughts into pleasant byways of literature, there to linger with pleasure over the things one had heard. Knowing the author, the pleasure and interest of such a paper could be safely anticipated, nor was the result otherwise. Charmingly written and full of the feelings that infuse a very sympathetic subject, the paper delighted the listeners.

The remainder of the programme was called "Mixed Grill," and was an experiment in running a magazine. Eleven anonymous papers were contributed. The Chairman was deputised to act as sole Editor, with the result that his task was rightly labelled "no sinecure."

Talents, hitherto unknown, like so many "desert flowers," were discovered. The papers ranged "From grave to gay, from lively to severe." The formal essay, prophecy, satire, and much humour had been attempted with results almost invariably good. The meeting voted that the paper "On Names, their use and abuse," by Miss E. A. Richardson, Armstrong College Library, was the best, the runner up being Miss E. Johnson, Gateshead Public Library, whose paper was entitled "Footles for two."

So successful was the venture that the wish was generally expressed that another similar programme should be arranged for a future meeting.

Votes of thanks to Mr. Zanetti, and to the unknown authors, proposed by Mr. J. Crawley (Vice-Chairman), seconded by Mr. A. Rennie, brought a successful, amusing, and informative evening to a close.

Nominations are invited for Officers and Members of Committee. Such nominations, duly signed, to be sent to the Hon. Secretary, on or before Saturday, March 15th, 1930.

W. E. H.

The Annual Meeting of the Division will be held at Darlington on Wednesday, April 9th.

Programme of future meetings:—July, Sunderland; October 1st, Middlesbrough; December, North Shields.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor, THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.*

Dear Sir,—I am glad Mr. Richards thinks the Library Routine questions were "very fair," but when he says that "Co-operation with the B.B.C." was a gift horse he is a little rash. In the June number of the "Record" will be printed a summary of some remarks of mine at Preston. In that summary are examples of the replies we received to that very question.

Proof correcting in the past has failed more candidates than any other single subject. It is an important part of a librarian's equipment, and is not a very difficult subject to master.

May I put in a plea for more care? Almost all the candidates are most slipshod in their writing, spelling and punctuation. At least 75 per cent. of the candidates had spelling errors! Here are a few examples: variets, virgilece, proffession, accomadate, allocatted. One candidate had five errors in twenty lines; another three in twelve; actually, voluntary, and priveledge. Another candidate gave these in successive lines: wirless set, furthurmore, wirless sets, privilage, and in the very next question talked about "middleman's prophets"; and still another gave me "pamplets" twice in three lines. This candidate tried me with "assisstants" in one question, and then being doubtful had another shot, "assissants" in the next.

The general style of the answers is not worthy of our entrance examinations, and from my own experience, which is supported by the testimony of other librarians, I consider the standard is much lower than at any previous period in our educational work.

What ought to happen, Mr. Editor, to a candidate who suggests loud speakers in the Reference Library, Lending Department, and News Room, "so that some people *must* listen to *some* of the talks?" And to the candidate who said that "Local collections contained a lot of old junk. Such collections should be revised at least every five years, and books that hadn't been used should be thrown away, thus saving much space."

I do hope assistants will appreciate my reasons for writing in this strain. These are not isolated examples—I have ten closely-typed foolscap pages full of errors and answers of this sort from one part only of the December examination, and considerable improvement must be shown before the unsuccessful candidates can hope to pass.

Yours faithfully,

C. NOWELL, City Librarian.

*[We are very grateful to Mr. Nowell for this letter. There is more than one hint therein for wide-awake candidates, and we comment elsewhere on the extraordinary spelling mistakes committed. The collection of errors is most appropriately made on foolscap!—HON. ED.]*

*The Editor, THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.*

Sir,—“Reviewer’s” triple assertion that the Sheffield annotations are not explanatory may carry weight with those minds for whom repetition is equal to demonstration, but not with any others.

There is a story told of Douglas Jerrold attending a lecture on “Drink,” and being questioned on his return as to the qualifications of

the lecturer he waggishly said that "he was full of his subject." Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for your reviewer in regard to his "percipience" (i.e., understanding or perception) of true values in annotation. His example of how he would have written the note to Richards' book leaves one cold—it is flat, uninteresting, and reads like those placid examples of text book experience which one sees turned out by assistants practising for the L.A. Examinations. Evidently "Reviewer's" extensive reading in classical literature has not yet enabled him to cast off such clichés as "throws fresh light."

He cannot fail to have come across in his reading those common-places of good English, "The style is the man," and "Brevity is the soul of wit." He uses neither in his wonderful example of how an annotation ought to be written. Surely he recognises that a striking book deserves a striking annotation, but our business as librarians is to get the book read.

A flat statement often fails to achieve this, whereas a suggestive statement of outlook, in the language of advertising, "gets over." This is where "Reviewer" and I part company on the principles of annotation. I have learned enough from various methods of publicity to know that it is not the truth that matters, but how the truth is told, or as near to it as one can apprehend it. As regards the note to Murry—I do not know what credentials your reviewer has for objecting to this note, but seeing that he rather prides himself on his wide reading in literature, may I retort in kind and say that by the time he has had half the experience of militant rationalism and modernism of the present writer he will be in a better position to judge the value of the note to Middleton Murry's "God." Until then I am afraid I shall have to describe him in the words of Thomas Hardy as "The Impercipient."—Yours faithfully,

J. CRANSHAW, Deputy Chief Librarian,  
Sheffield Public Libraries.

*[Our reviewer will say his final word on this subject next month.—*

HON. ED.]

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### NEW MEMBERS:

Mildred Spear, Marjorie E. Tuffin (Newport); Ivy H. Jones (Gwent College, Newport); Ernest Thompson (Leeds); M. Chater (Bradford); Leslie William Spence (Poplar); Olive Cynthia Joan Kennell (St. Albans); Leslie Edward Long (Wilts County).

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Correction.—The name of Miss Phillis Beatrice Lowder-Lees incorrectly appeared in the last issue as Miss B. L. Lees, and for Miss E. Simpson (Portsmouth) read Miss Mabel Sargeant.

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### APPOINTMENTS.

\*STANLEY W. MARTIN, Senior Assistant, Reference Library, Borough of Lambeth, to be Branch Librarian, Carnegie Library, Herne Hill, S.E.24 (under the same authority). Four Certificates of Library Association Salary—£210-£10-£250, plus Civil Service bonus. Member of the Council of the Association of Assistant Librarians.

HALL, JOHN G., Senior Assistant, Branch Library, Hull, to be Senior Assistant, Coventry. Diplomat of the Library Association. Salary £208—£13—£260 per annum.

\*SAYELL, ROBERT CECIL, Chief Assistant, Watford, to be Senior Assistant, Paddington. Six Certificates of the L.A. Salary £225 per annum. (Also selected: Messrs. W. J. L. Hill, Woolwich; \*W. C. Pugsley, Kingston; \*C. G. Saint, Kensington; B. O. Smith, Middlesex County; and \*A. H. Watkins, Teddington).

\*WISKER, ERNEST, Assistant, Fulham Public Libraries, to be Assistant, Leicester. Salary £200 per annum, rising to £250.

\*TAYLOR, MARGARET S., M.A. (Oxon.), Branch Librarian, Coventry, to be Assistant Librarian, Chesterfield. Salary £200—£10—£250 per annum. Six L.A. Certificates, one "with Honours."

(Also selected: Messrs. \*Pummell, Fulham; and \*Thompson, York).

\*Those marked with an asterisk are members of the A.A.L.

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